

PRELIMINARY DRAFT RESPONSE FOR CONDUCTING INTERVIEW

Appl. No. 09/687,691

Please amend Claim 2 as follows:

2. (Amended) The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein said odds of winning said award increase linearly when any component of said wager increases.

Please amend Claim 3 as follows:

3. (Amended) The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the game includes a plurality of reels and a payline, and wherein said odds of winning said award increase when said player increases an amount wagered on said payline.

Please amend Claim 6 as follows:

6. (Amended) The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the game includes a plurality of reels and a plurality of paylines, and wherein said odds of winning said award increase as said number of wagered paylines increases.

Please amend Claim 12 as follows:

12. (Amended) A slot machine comprising a jackpot award as an outcome of a player interactive event, wherein said machine enables a player wagering the smallest machine allowable amount to have a chance to win said jackpot award, and wherein a payout ratio for the jackpot award is constant regardless of a number of paylines wagered and an amount wagered per payline.

Please amend Claim 13 as follows:

13. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 12, which includes a plurality of awards, one of which is the jackpot award, and wherein a payout ratio for each of the plurality of awards is constant.

Please amend Claim 14 as follows:

14. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 1, wherein the odds of winning the jackpot award increase as the player's wager increases.

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Please amend Claim 15 as follows:

15. (Amended) A slot machine comprising a jackpot award as an outcome of a player interactive event and odds of winning the jackpot award that increase linearly when a bet per payline wager increases and when a number of paylines wagered increases.

Please amend Claim 16 as follows:

16. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 15, wherein a payout ratio for the jackpot award is constant regardless of a number of paylines wagered and an amount wagered per payline.

Please amend Claim 17 as follows:

17. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 15, wherein said jackpot award is progressive.

Please amend Claim 18 as follows:

18. (Amended) A slot machine comprising a plurality of reels and at least one payline, wherein at least one award is provided and the odds of winning the award vary proportionally based on a number of paylines played and vary proportionally based on a number of credits wagered per payline.

Please amend Claim 19 as follows:

19. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 18, which includes a number of attempts at randomly producing said award, said number of attempts being dependent upon the amount wagered per payline.

Please amend Claim 20 as follows:

20. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 18, which includes a number of attempts at randomly producing said award, said number of attempts being dependent upon the amount wagered per payline and upon at least one odds constant.

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Please amend Claim 21 as follows:

21. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 18, which includes a production of a plurality of symbols on said reels, said award being dependent upon a production of a predetermined symbol or symbol combination on a payline, said symbol or combination being dependent upon the amount wagered per payline.

Please amend Claim 22 as follows:

22. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 18, which includes a production of a plurality of symbols on said reels, said award being dependent upon a production of a predetermined symbol or symbol combination on a payline, said symbol or combination being dependent upon the number of wagered paylines.

Please amend Claim 23 as follows:

23. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 18, which includes a bonus round of said slot machine.

Please amend Claim 24 as follows:

24. (Amended) A slot machine comprising a plurality of reels and a payline, whereby a player can wager different amounts on said payline, and wherein the odds of entering a bonus round change as the player's wager per payline changes.

Please amend Claim 25 as follows:

25. (Amended) A slot machine having a base game comprising a plurality of reels and a plurality of paylines, whereby a player can wager different amounts on a number of said paylines, and wherein the odds of entering a bonus game from the base game change depending on the player's wager per payline and a number of opportunities to achieve an award in the bonus game change depending on a number of paylines wagered.

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Please amend Claim 26 as follows:

26. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 25, wherein the odds of entering the bonus game change as a result of different reel symbol combinations having different probabilities based on the wager per payline.

Please amend Claim 27 as follows:

27. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 25, wherein the odds of entering the bonus game change proportionally based on the wager per payline.

Please amend Claim 28 as follows:

28. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 25, wherein one of the paylines is dedicated to determining whether the player enters the bonus game.

Please amend Claim 29 as follows:

29. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 25, wherein each of the paylines passes through a single paystop on one of the reels.

Please amend Claim 31 as follows:

31. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 25, wherein the bonus game includes multiple levels, a first level having odds depending on the number of paylines wagered and a second level having constant odds.

Please amend Claim 32 as follows:

32. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 31, wherein at least one odds constant also affects the odds of the first level.

Please amend Claim 33 as follows:

33. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 26 31, wherein the first and second levels each include a random generation device selected from the group consisting of: a spinning wheel and a spinning reel.

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Please amend Claim 34 as follows:

34. (Amended) The slot machine of Claim 33, wherein the bonus game award has a payout ratio that is constant regardless of the number of paylines wagered and the wager per payline.

Please add new Claim 35 as follows:

35. (Newly Added) A gaming device comprising:
a game and an award provided by playing the game;
a plurality of symbols randomly generated by the game;
a first set of the symbols that, at least in part, enable a player to achieve the award, the first set of symbols used by the game when the player makes a first wager;
and
a second set of the symbols that, at least in part, enable the player to achieve the award, the second set of symbols used by the game when the player makes a second [different] wager, the second set of symbols having different odds of being randomly generated than the first set of symbols.

Please add new Claim 36 as follows:

36. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 35, wherein the game is a slot game and the sets of symbols are symbols appearing on slot machine reels.

Please add new Claim 37 as follows:

37. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 35, which includes a third set of the symbols that, at least in part, enable the player to achieve the award, the third set of symbols used by the game when the player makes a third [different] wager, the third set of symbols having different odds of being randomly generated than the first and second sets.

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Please add new Claim 38 as follows:

38. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 35, which includes a number of sets of the symbols that, at least in part, enable the player to achieve the award, the number equal to the number of credits that can be wagered on a payline of the game.

Please add new Claim 39 as follows:

39. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 35, which includes a number of sets of the symbols that, at least in part, enable the player to achieve the award, the number equal to the number of paylines that can be wagered on a payline of the game.

Please add new Claim 40 as follows:

40. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 35, wherein the sets initiate a bonus round of the game, the award achieved in the bonus round.

Please add new Claim 41 as follows:

41. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 35, wherein the first and second sets of symbols are used when first and second amounts of paylines are wagered, respectively, in the game.

Please add new Claim 42 as follows:

42. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 35, wherein the first and second sets of symbols are used when first and second amounts of credits are wagered on a payline, respectively, in the game.

Please add new Claim 43 as follows:

43. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 35, wherein the first and second sets of symbols are generated in a bonus round of the game.

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Please add new Claim 44 as follows:

44. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 35, wherein the probability of generating the first set of symbols multiplied by the first wager equals the probability of generating the second set of symbols multiplied by the second wager.

Please add new Claim 45 as follows:

45. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 35, wherein an amount of money necessary to generate the first set of symbols, on average, is the same as an amount of money necessary to generate the second set of symbols, on average.

Please add new Claim 46 as follows:

46. (Newly Added) A gaming device comprising:
a game including a plurality of reels, each reel having a plurality of symbols;
a first symbol placed on one of the reels in a first proportion;
a second symbol placed on the same reel in a second proportion, different than the first proportion;
a first set of the symbols that, at least in part, enable a player to achieve an award, the first set of symbols used by the game when the player makes a first wager, the first set of symbols including the first symbol; and
a second set of the symbols that, at least in part, enable the player to achieve the award, the second set of symbols used by the game when the player makes a second [different] wager, the second set of symbols including the second symbol.

Please add new Claim 47 as follows:

47. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 46, wherein the sets initiate a bonus round of the game, the award achieved in the bonus round.

Please add new Claim 48 as follows:

48. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 46, wherein the first and second sets of symbols are used when first and second amounts of paylines are wagered, respectively, in the game.

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Please add new Claim 49 as follows:

49. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 46, wherein the first and second sets of symbols are used when first and second amounts of credits are wagered on a payline, respectively, in the game.

Please add new Claim 50 as follows:

50. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 46, wherein the probability of generating the first set of symbols multiplied by the first wager equals the probability of generating the second set of symbols multiplied by the second wager.

Please add new Claim 51 as follows:

51. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 46, wherein an amount of money necessary to generate the first set of symbols, on average, is the same as an amount of money necessary to generate the second set of symbols, on average.

Please add new Claim 52 as follows:

52. (Newly Added) A gaming device comprising:
a game including a plurality of reels, each reel having a plurality of symbols;
a first symbol placed on a first one of the reels in a first proportion;
a second symbol placed on a second one of the reels in a second proportion, different than the first proportion;
a first set of the symbols that, at least in part, enable a player to achieve an award, the first set of symbols used by the game when the player makes a first wager, the first set of symbols including the first symbol; and
a second set of the symbols that, at least in part, enable a player to achieve the award, the second set of symbols used by the game when the player makes a second [different] wager, the second set of symbols including the second symbol.

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Please add new Claim 53 as follows:

53. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 52, wherein the sets initiate a bonus round of the game, the award achieved in the bonus round.

Please add new Claim 54 as follows:

54. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 52, wherein the first and second sets of symbols are used when first and second amounts of paylines are wagered, respectively, in the game.

Please add new Claim 55 as follows:

55. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 52, wherein the first and second sets of symbols are used when first and second amounts of credits are wagered on a payline, respectively, in the game.

Please add new Claim 56 as follows:

56. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 52, wherein the probability of generating the first set of symbols multiplied by the first wager equals the probability of generating the second set of symbols multiplied by the second wager.

Please add new Claim 57 as follows:

57. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 52, wherein an amount of money necessary to generate the first set of symbols, on average, is the same as an amount of money necessary to generate the second set of symbols, on average.

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Please add new Claim 58 as follows:

58. (Newly Added) A slot machine having a plurality of reels, a plurality of paylines operating with the reels and a bonus game with a bonus award, the bonus game initiated by a combination of symbols on a payline, the slot machine comprising:

odds of generating the combination of symbols that vary based on a number of the paylines wagered;

odds of generating the bonus award in the bonus game that vary based on a wager per payline; and

the bonus award having a payout ratio that is constant regardless of the number of paylines wagered and the wager per payline.

Please add new Claim 59 as follows:

59. (Newly Added) The slot machine of Claim 58, wherein at least one of the odds of generating the combination of symbols and the odds of generating the bonus award vary linearly based on the number of paylines wagered and the wager per payline, respectively.

Please add new Claim 60 as follows:

60. (Newly Added) The slot machine of Claim 58, wherein at least one of the odds of generating the combination of symbols and the odds of generating the bonus award vary proportionately with the number of paylines wagered and the wager per payline, respectively.

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Please add new Claim 61 as follows:

61. (Newly Added) A slot machine having a plurality of reels, a plurality of paylines operating with the reels and a bonus game with a bonus award, the bonus game initiated by a combination of symbols on a payline, the slot machine comprising:

odds of generating the combination of symbols that vary based on a number of the paylines wagered;

odds of generating the bonus award in the bonus game that vary based on a wager per payline; and

wherein the odds of generating the combination of symbols and the odds of generating the bonus award vary linearly based on the number of paylines wagered and the wager per payline, respectively.

Please add new Claim 62 as follows:

62. (Newly Added) A slot machine having a plurality of reels, a plurality of paylines operating with the reels and a bonus game with a bonus award, the bonus game initiated by a combination of symbols on a payline, the slot machine comprising:

odds of generating the combination of symbols that vary based on a number of the paylines wagered;

odds of generating the bonus award in the bonus game that vary based on a wager per payline; and

wherein the odds of generating the combination of symbols and the odds of generating the bonus award vary proportionately based on the number of paylines wagered and the wager per payline, respectively.

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Please add new Claim 63 as follows:

63. (Newly Added) A slot machine having a plurality of reels, a plurality of paylines operating with the reels and a bonus game with a bonus award, the bonus game initiated by a combination of symbols on a payline, the slot machine comprising:

odds of generating the combination of symbols that vary based on a wager per payline; and

odds of generating the bonus award in the bonus game that vary based on a number of paylines wagered.

Please add new Claim 64 as follows:

64. (Newly Added) The slot machine of Claim 63, wherein the bonus award has a payout ratio that is constant regardless of the number of paylines wagered and the wager per payline.

Please add new Claim 65 as follows:

65. (Newly Added) The slot machine of Claim 63, wherein at least one of the odds of generating the combination of symbols and the odds of generating the bonus award vary linearly based on the number of paylines wagered and the wager per payline, respectively.

Please add new Claim 66 as follows:

66. (Newly Added) The slot machine of Claim 63, wherein at least one of the odds of generating the combination of symbols and the odds of generating the bonus award vary proportionately with the number of paylines wagered and the wager per payline, respectively.

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Please add new Claim 67 as follows:

67. (Newly Added) A slot machine having a plurality of reels, a plurality of paylines operating with the reels and a bonus game with a bonus award, the bonus game operating sequentially with play of the reels, the slot machine comprising:

odds of generating the combination of symbols that are constant regardless of the number of paylines wagered or the wager per payline;

the bonus game having a plurality of levels;

a first one of the levels having odds of generating, in part, the bonus award that vary based on a number of the paylines wagered; and

a second one of the levels having odds of generating, in part, the bonus award that vary based on a wager per payline.

Please add new Claim 68 as follows:

68. (Newly Added) The slot machine of Claim 67, wherein the bonus award has a payout ratio that is constant regardless of the number of paylines wagered and the wager per payline.

Please add new Claim 69 as follows:

69. (Newly Added) The slot machine of Claim 67, wherein the odds of generating the bonus award vary linearly based on the number of paylines wagered and the wager per payline, respectively.

Please add new Claim 70 as follows:

70. (Newly Added) The slot machine of Claim 67, wherein the odds of generating the bonus award vary proportionately with the number of paylines wagered and the wager per payline, respectively.

Please add new Claim 71 as follows:

71. (Newly Added) The slot machine of Claim 67, wherein the constant odds of entering the bonus game are achieved via one the paylines being dedicated to determining whether the player enters the bonus game.

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Please add new Claim 72 as follows:

72. (Newly Added) The slot machine of Claim 67, wherein the constant odds of entering the bonus game are achieved via each of the paylines passing through a single paystop on one of the reels.

Please add new Claim 73 as follows:

73. (Newly Added) The slot machine of Claim 67, wherein at least one of the first and second levels of the bonus game includes an odds constant for the award in addition to the varying odds based on the number of paylines wagered and the wager per payline, respectively.

Please add new Claim 74 as follows:

74. (Newly Added) The slot machine of Claim 67, wherein the bonus game includes a third level having constant odds of generating the award.

Please add new Claim 75 as follows:

75. (Newly Added) A slot machine having a base game with a plurality of reels, a plurality of paylines operating with the reels to generate base game awards and a bonus game with a bonus award, the bonus game operating sequentially with the base game, the slot machine comprising:

odds of entering the bonus game that depend on an event not associated with generating base game awards;

the bonus game having a plurality of levels;

a first one of the levels having odds of generating, in part, the bonus award that vary based on a number of the paylines wagered; and

a second one of the levels having odds of generating, in part, the bonus award that vary based on a wager per payline.

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Please add new Claim 76 as follows:

76. (Newly Added) A slot machine having a plurality of reels, a plurality of paylines operating with the reels and a bonus game with a bonus award, the bonus game initiated by a combination of symbols on a payline, the slot machine comprising:

odds of generating the combination of symbols that vary based on a number of paylines wagered;

the bonus game having a plurality of levels;

a first one of the levels having odds of generating, in part, the bonus award that vary based on a wager per payline; and

a second one of the levels having odds of generating, in part, the bonus award that vary also based on the wager per payline.

Please add new Claim 77 as follows:

77. (Newly Added) The slot machine of Claim 76, wherein at least one of the first and second levels of the bonus game includes an odds constant for the award in addition to the varying odds based on the wager per payline.

Please add new Claim 78 as follows:

78. (Newly Added) The slot machine of Claim 76, wherein the bonus game includes a third level having constant odds of generating the award.

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Please add new Claim 79 as follows:

79. (Newly Added) A slot machine having a plurality of reels, a plurality of paylines operating with the reels and a bonus game with a bonus award, the bonus game initiated by a combination of symbols on a payline, the slot machine comprising:

odds of generating the combination of symbols that vary based on a number of paylines wagered;

the bonus game having a plurality of levels;

a first one of the levels having odds of generating, in part, the bonus award that vary based on a wager per payline; and

a second one of the levels having odds of generating, in part, the bonus award that vary based on the number of paylines wagered.

Please add new Claim 80 as follows:

80. (Newly Added) The slot machine of Claim 79, wherein at least one of the first and second levels of the bonus game includes an odds constant for the award in addition to the varying odds based on the wager per payline and the number of paylines wagered, respectively.

Please add new Claim 81 as follows:

81. (Newly Added) The slot machine of Claim 79, wherein the bonus game includes a third level having constant odds of generating the award.

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Please add new Claim 82 as follows:

82. (Newly Added) A slot machine having a plurality of reels, a plurality of paylines operating with the reels and a bonus game with a bonus award, the bonus game initiated by a combination of symbols on a payline, the slot machine comprising:

odds of generating the combination of symbols that vary based on a wager per payline;

the bonus game having a plurality of levels;

a first one of the levels having odds of generating, in part, the bonus award that vary based on a number of paylines wagered; and

a second one of the levels having odds of generating, in part, the bonus award that vary also based on the number of paylines wagered.

Please add new Claim 83 as follows:

83. (Newly Added) The slot machine of Claim 82, wherein at least one of the first and second levels of the bonus game includes an odds constant for the award in addition to the varying odds based on the number of paylines wagered.

Please add new Claim 84 as follows:

84. (Newly Added) The slot machine of Claim 82, wherein the bonus game includes a third level having constant odds of generating the award.

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Please add new Claim 85 as follows:

85. (Newly Added) A slot machine having a plurality of reels, a plurality of paylines operating with the reels and a bonus game with a bonus award, the bonus game initiated by a combination of symbols on a payline, the slot machine comprising:

odds of generating the combination of symbols that vary based on a wager per payline;

the bonus game having a plurality of levels;

a first one of the levels having odds of generating, in part, the bonus award that vary based on a number of paylines wagered; and

a second one of the levels having odds of generating, in part, the bonus award that vary based on the wager per payline.

Please add new Claim 86 as follows:

86. (Newly Added) The slot machine of Claim 85, wherein at least one of the first and second levels of the bonus game includes an odds constant for the award in addition to the varying odds based on the number of paylines wagered and the wager per payline, respectively.

Please add new Claim 87 as follows:

87. (Newly Added) The slot machine of Claim 85, wherein the bonus game includes a third level having constant odds of generating the award.

Please add new Claim 88 as follows:

88. (Newly Added) A gaming device comprising:

a plurality of reels;

a plurality of paylines operating with the reels;

a base game that uses the reels and at least one of the paylines to generate one or more base game awards;

a bonus game that is initiated by at least one symbol appearing on a payline, the initiation payline not used by the base game to generate any base game awards.

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Please add new Claim 89 as follows:

89. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 88, wherein the initiation payline is displayed on a display device along with at least one of the paylines used by the base game to generate base game awards.

Please add new Claim 90 as follows:

90. (Newly Added) A gaming device comprising:
a plurality of reels;
a plurality of paylines operating with the reels;
a base game that uses the reels and at least one of the paylines to generate one or more base game awards;
a bonus game that is initiated by a symbol appearing at one paystop of one of the reels, each payline including the paystop of the bonus game generating reel.

Please add new Claim 91 as follows:

91. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 90, wherein the bonus game generating reel is disposed centrally amongst the plurality of reels.

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Please add new Claim 92 as follows:

92. (Newly Added) A slot machine having a plurality of reels, a plurality of paylines operating with the reels and a bonus game with a bonus award, the bonus game initiated by a combination of symbols on a payline, the slot machine comprising:

the bonus game having a plurality of levels;

a first one of the levels having a grid with a number of positions, the positions including a start position and an end position;

a number of tries associated randomly with the positions except for the start position, the number of tries based on the wager per payline; and

a second one of the levels providing the bonus game award, the player having a number of opportunities to achieve the award, the number of opportunities based on the number of tries collected by the player selecting positions on the grid from the start position to the end position.

Please add new Claim 93 as follows:

93. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 92, wherein the first bonus level includes a plurality of different odds constants associated with the different positions.

Please add new Claim 94 as follows:

94. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 92, wherein the second bonus level includes a spinning wheel.

Please add new Claim 95 as follows:

95. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 92, wherein the second bonus level includes a plurality of awards, the awards provided based on how many of a particular symbol the player achieves via the number of opportunities.

Please add new Claim 96 as follows:

96. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 92, wherein odds of generating the combination of symbols vary based on a number of paylines wagered.

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Please add new Claim 97 as follows:

97. (Newly Added) A slot machine having a plurality of reels, a bonus game with a bonus award, the bonus game initiated by a combination of symbols on the reels, the slot machine comprising:

the bonus game having a plurality of levels;

a first one of the levels having a grid with a number of positions, the positions including a start position and an end position;

a number of tries associated randomly with the positions except for the start position, the number of tries based on the number of paylines wagered; and

a second one of the levels providing the bonus game award, the player having a number of opportunities to achieve the award, the number of opportunities based on the number of tries collected by the player selecting positions on the grid from the start position to the end position.

Please add new Claim 98 as follows:

98. (Newly Added) A gaming device having a bonus game, the bonus game comprising:

a grid with a number of positions, the positions including a start position and an end position;

a number of tries provided to a player, the tries associated randomly with the positions except for the start position; and

an award provided to the player based on the number of tries collected by the player selecting positions on the grid from the start position to the end position.

Please add new Claim 99 as follows:

99. (Newly Added) The gaming device of Claim 98, wherein the grid forms a first portion of the bonus game, and wherein the bonus game includes a second portion, the second portion providing the award, the player having a number of opportunities to achieve the award, the number of opportunities based on the number of tries collected by the player selecting positions on the grid from the start position to the end position.